A project for integrated development of rural tourism at Paragpur in District Kangra has been sanctioned for Central financial assistance of Rs. 50.00 lakhs during the current financial year. During the year 2002-03, the Chandigarh-Kullu-Manali-Lahaul/Spiti-Leh Tourist Circuit with Central financial assistance of Rs. 714.06 lakhs has been taken up for development.

Plan to make hotel premises easy for disabled

1516. SHRI EKANATH K.THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Jaipur hotels have plans to make their premises easy for physically challenged people; and

(b) if so, by when Government propose to make it mandatory for all the hotels to open their doors to the disabled otherwise their licenses would not be renewed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) According to the Revised Guidelines for Classification of Hotels and Approval of hotel projects issued by the Department of Tourism, Government of India on 23.04.2003, new hotel projects will be required to adopt environment friendly practices and facilities for physically challenged persons.

As regards the existing classified hotels, they are required to add in a phased manner eco-friendly practices and facilities for physically challenged persons.

It is being ensured at the time of classification/re-classification of hotels that all hotels, including hotels in Jaipur should have the above facilities.

Survey by ASI to assess encroachment of Land

1517. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether following theTaj corridor controversy, Government have undertaken any survey about the encroachment of land around

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) buildings, monument and tourist spots like Qutab Minar, HumayunTomb, Red Fort in Delhi, and in different other States and UTs;

(b) if so, what are the rules/regulations in force in this regard; and

(c) the details of encroachments detected, the steps taken to remove the same?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Survey of the protected area of the centrally protected monuments is taken up as and when required. Archaeological Survey of India has conducted survey around the Qutab Minar, Humayuns tomb and Red Fort.

(b) As per the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 and Rules 1959,1992, 100 metres area around the protected area is declared as prohibited area where no new construction is allowed and further 200 metres from the prohibited area is declared as regulated area where construction activities are regulated by controlling height of the new constructions.

(c) Whenever encroachment in the protected area is noticed, demolition order is issued and implemented with the help of police, Municipal corporations, district authorities, local bodies and wherever necessary legal action is also taken.

Rock-cut Caves in Vidarbha

1518. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Archaeological Survey of India are aware that a set of rock-cut caves belonging to Megalithic period have been found in some districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by ASI to preserve these caves; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir. No megalithic caves have been reported from Vidarbha region of Maharashtra so far.